



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review
Public Scoping Meeting Comments

Oct. 5, 2008
7 – 10 p.m.
Seattle Aquarium, Seattle, WA

In all, 42 people attended the meeting (excluding sanctuary staff). Meeting attendees were divided into four discussion groups. Each group was facilitated by a sanctuary staff member. An additional staff member served as note-taker. Discussion groups sat around tables facing projected Microsoft Word blank document pages. Facilitators each asked their groups, “what should be Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s priorities for the next 5 to 10 years? Note-takers typed each group member’s comments so that the entire group could see them. Facilitators checked in with each participant to verify that his/her typed comments were accurate; the participants could then request changes to the wording. Here are the responses from each group.

Group #1

Facilitator: George Galasso

Note-taker: Lauren Bennett

- The sanctuary should summarize better what the original management plan was set out to do for the public, and summarize better where the sanctuary is in accomplishing those original goals.
- The sanctuary should establish a cable corridor through the sanctuary for allowed use of laying cables. There is so much uncertainty in working with the sanctuary that cables are going in less advantageous areas. The sanctuary and tribes could work together to form a set of regulations for the corridor (and commercial interests could help in research and other management efforts).
- There are a lot of people in the state who don’t know that there is a marine sanctuary on the coast. There is a big awareness gap and this should be addressed in the sanctuary’s education programs. The sanctuary needs to connect to the major population areas in the state (e.g. more connections with the aquarium and other groups throughout the state).
- There is a major effort in the state to clean up Puget Sound and the Sound is connected to the Outer Coast. The different parts of NOAA should collaborate more/work together better to improve scientific research efforts. There needs to be better coordination throughout NOAA and there needs to be better coordination in the region. The sanctuary should look for opportunities to

collaborate with other groups on putting in core infrastructure in support of hard science. These partnerships should be leveraged to create awareness.

- Research within the sanctuary needs to shift. Currently, research is focused on certain charismatic species. Monitoring should occur more on the community level (not just on certain species).
- The sanctuary should do more work on deep-sea corals and deep-sea communities in order to monitor for climate change.
- Has the sanctuary acted on the November 10, 2006 letter from the SAC in support of the Neah Bay tug? If not, the sanctuary should.
- The sanctuary should provide consistent regulations with the northern California sanctuaries in regards to the banning of discharges from cruise ships.
- The sanctuary should call for the Navy to mitigate their current and proposed expansion of operations in the Quinault range through the stationing of spill response and salvage equipment along the coast.
- The ban on offshore oil and gas development should be continued.
- In the next 5 to 10 years, the sanctuary should put forth some positions on how it would entertain offshore development in the sanctuary (e.g. wave power, wind, tidal, other alternative energies).
- The sanctuary should continue to develop its partnership with the coastal tribal governments, and recognize the tribes as the equal powers/partners that they are. We are partners in protecting treaty resources; resources in the sanctuary are co-managed (they are not exclusively sanctuary property). As compared to the other sanctuaries in the national system, the relationship between the tribes and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) is a unique one. The sanctuary should embrace this relationship not from a top down management style, but from the ground up. The sanctuary should continue to develop its understanding of the physical/spiritual connection between the tribal peoples and the environment. It is important for the sanctuary to combine its understanding of trust responsibilities and tribal values with strong science. The sanctuary needs to continue to improve its relationship with the coastal tribes (this a mutual obligation).
- It is important that the sanctuary support funding/requirement (year round) for the Neah Bay tug.
- It is important that the sanctuary support development of the dispersant use matrix (this would help lead to establishing a comprehensive understanding of baseline biological data).
- The National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries need to work together better to avoid conflicting management authorities.
- Part of the management plan review should be the development of a process to intake, prioritize and act on new issues that occur between now and the next plan.
- The sanctuary should be really really good at something and if the thing about this sanctuary that is unique is its relationship with the coastal tribes, then the sanctuary should be world class at that relationship. The sanctuary should then share this experience within the sanctuary program and worldwide.

- Along these lines, the sanctuary should consider having a conference (5 or 6 years out) on the model it would develop on best practices for working with indigenous peoples.
- The sanctuary should develop a program or partner with existing programs/organizations for middle school kids to become involved with some element of the sanctuary (e.g., maritime heritage). This would help to connect the sanctuary to the state (and vice versa).
- The other stakeholders should acknowledge what the sanctuary does well. The sanctuary should continue its strong relationship with the Makah Cultural and Research Center (especially in identifying culturally-sensitive sites in the sanctuary and in continuing archeological projects).
- The sanctuary should make better use of the web and public media to get its message out to the public.
- The sanctuary needs to be better known on the Peninsula as well as in the metropolitan areas.
- The sanctuary needs to concentrate its efforts on forming partnerships with the four coastal tribes.
- The sanctuary has to be protective of the resource from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's promotion of offshore aquaculture in terms of introduced species, diseases, and conflicts with wildlife.
- The original scoping meetings for the sanctuary's Draft Environmental Impact Statement in 1991 were well-attended (by over 500 people) who have not been kept in touch with over the 14 years since designation (1994), and who called for improved capabilities to protect the resources from oil spills having occurred in the winter of '88 and summer of '91 with Exxon in '89 in between. To this date, there has yet to be a successful no-notice equipment deployment oil spill drill in the sanctuary despite specific identification in the current management plan to do so. The Condition Report's identification of the fact that there has been no major spills in the sanctuary since designation fails to acknowledge the 41 times the Neah Bay tug has been called out to respond to ships in distress since 1991 and the fact that funding for the tug ends this year.
- The sanctuary's future management plan should pay increased attention to living marine resources. Given their condition, attention to living marine resources should be an increased priority for the sanctuary.
- A priority of the sanctuary should be to establish with confidence what the status of the living marine resources is. Once we know this status, the sanctuary could act with more authority in managing the resources.
- The sanctuary should contribute to the understanding of the winter distribution of the endangered southern resident killer whale population.
- The sanctuary should encourage the state and Coast Guard to proceed with their study of coastal towing (losing tows, infringing on the ATBA and interactions with nuclear submarines and the recommended routing in the Strait of Juan de Fuca).
- Duntze Rock should be marked with a racon and instrumented for meteorological data and acoustic data.

- The sanctuary should weigh in more on state legislation in Olympia – in committee hearings.

Group #2

Facilitator: Andy Palmer

Note-taker: Jacqueline Laverdure

- A priority should be the scientific research and the data collected. The sanctuary should be a nexus for the research; a research monitoring facility. Including:
 - Ecosystem parameters that the biological resources rely on.
 - Oceanic processes
 - Effects of pollutants from Puget Sound; water quality research
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - CO2
- Research of the impacts of new ocean energy technology (wave energy) should be studied elsewhere before being used in the sanctuary. Those impacts should be explored outside the sanctuary first.
- The sanctuary should have more outreach on the goals of the sanctuary. Specifically what is the role of sanctuary with climate change research?
- The sanctuary should research wave energy technology and do the study inside the sanctuary.
- There is an identity crisis with two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) agencies: the National Ocean Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service. What is the specific role of sanctuary? It is a great research mechanism.
 - What is ecosystem management?
 - Goal should be: Protecting the oceans resources and fisheries while maintaining the fisheries that depend on these resources.
- Sanctuary should do more than educate school children. They should do more to reach people who do not attend meetings, try to educate people who are harder to reach.
- Sanctuary should research the perceptions of the coastal tribes to see if they are in line with the priorities of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary should consider expanding the boundaries of sanctuary down the strait to include San Juan Islands.
- Enhance public understanding and use ecosystem management approach; interfaced with policy of Canadian government as well as with tribal policy. Get different sovereign governments on the same page for resource management.
- The sanctuary staff and volunteers should have training on the overlapping responsibilities and roles of the individual governments; tribes, state agencies, and federal agencies that have roles within the boundaries of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary should take a precautionary approach to any alternative energy development proposals within the sanctuary given the significance of the sanctuary – especially since this has never been done in any other sanctuary before – because it could become precedent.

- The sanctuary should work on ways to incorporate or be mindful of activities going on upland of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary should conduct more baseline monitoring within the sanctuary, including more public engagement through citizen science programs.
- Sanctuary should prioritize developing a permitting process for exploitive technologies that are emergent and pressing on society. The sanctuary should work with the public to develop such permitting goals.
- The sanctuary should be the place for using new technologies. The sanctuary should be looking into: Fishing technology development, fuels and lubricants for vessels that are not harmful to the ocean, and similar technologies.
- Sanctuary is a good place for this research (new technologies) because it does not have conflicting impacts. It is a good control area. We can get background reading of hydrocarbons and other chemicals.
- Sanctuary should offer more protection of anthropological and maritime heritage sites within the sanctuary.
- Sanctuary should continue the protection of habitats for marine mammals and seabirds.
- Sanctuary should establish a process for determining priorities among the multiple uses of the sanctuary.
- Sanctuary should explore potential impacts of military activities. Impacts, particularly the impacts to wildlife, should be transparent to the public.
- Sanctuary should do more baseline monitoring especially in regards to invasive species and upland activities (examples: mineral extraction, logging, coastline development)

Group #3

Facilitator: Robert Steelquist

Note-taker: John Barimo

- The sanctuary should preserve personal/oral histories and stories of fishing communities
- Establish remote sensing, surveying and monitoring of underwater archeological sites.
- Expand archeological studies, monitoring, sampling and analysis to include areas near or adjacent to the sanctuaries. Coastlines have changed over paleo-time so these areas are no longer within the boundaries of the sanctuary.
- Continue research and education about archeological work that has been done. That research should have a public education component.
- The main priority should be to conserve biodiversity.
- The sanctuary should work with other partners in the federal government to help prevent oil spills. Reevaluate memorandums of understanding for prevention and response to spills.
- Regard the current management plan as a valuable operational tool.
- To continue and develop multiple and effective partnerships for the goals of resource protection, research and education.

- Archeological sites contain information that can be used to understand the ecology of present systems which could help us with resource management (e.g., look at things in the past before management issues such as overfishing were occurring).
- Leverage the partnership with volunteers to improve many types of research. Create a stronger volunteer base with training and rewards. Consider underwater archeology models such as Coastal Maritime Archeology Resources, the Underwater Archeology Society of British Columbia, and National Archeology Society of the United Kingdom. Seek the critical mass.
- Seafloor mapping should be 100% complete and assessment of benthic habitat which are important, especially deep coral.
- Push for Spill of National Significance exercise. Request annual worst case scenario oil spill response drill off the Washington Coast.
- Use permitting authority to structure and coordinate research.
- To play the coordinating role for research in the sanctuary with an emphasis on long-term studies and use of common formats for data collecting analysis and reporting.
- We need more geological research specifically focused on paleo-shoreline and sea level history over the past 20,000 years.
- After habitat mapping and paleo-shoreline study, sanctuary should do in-depth geomorphic assessments to identify land forms and prioritize areas for archeological survey.
- Explore funding opportunities for archeological research from private donors to be channeled through the sanctuary foundation.
- Monitor the effects of ocean acidification and other effects of climate change within the sanctuary.
- Ban all discharges from cruise ships within the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary should stay back from the regulatory role of fisheries. It should conduct/coordinate research that contributes to the regulatory policies.
- Continue and expand efforts toward use in youth and adult education in ocean literacy with emphasis on practical work based learning and long-term volunteerism, and this is an area for collaboration.
- Integration of cultural information with oil spill response activities to prevent damage by spill response workers to cultural resources.
- Coordinate remote sensing data with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Maritime Heritage for prioritizing potential underwater archeological targets.
- Describe and map various human uses that occur within the sanctuary that include commercial and recreational activities, and ultimately regulate what activities are allowed to occur within the sanctuary and where they are allowed to occur.
- Promote alternative energy such as wind and wave (as a fork in the road to offshore to oil and gas development).
- Expand website and other ways for the public to understand management strategies, and participate and support management plan more fully. Increase understanding of the sanctuary by the general public so as to be more informed on action plans.

- Promote site specific sanctuary definitions for compatible human uses in the context of what is sustainable. Is the sanctuary's mission conservation or is sustainable management achieving conservation? How do we sort out whose mission has priorities when preempting another agencies priorities. How do we determine if it's needed, how do we determine if it is feasible with other sanctuary mandates and is the expertise in house to do so? Are there other more efficient alternatives to address specific concerns? This needs to be clearly defined through a public process including interagency and intergovernmental engagement.
- The sanctuary should have awareness for other activities within the sanctuary other than recreation and commercial, but to include traditional cultural activities. To be more active in public awareness specific to the site.
- There should be mitigating measures for the Department of Defense such as the U.S. Navy activities conducted within the sanctuary, which would be negotiated by the Department of Commerce. Goal for the sanctuary staff should be to request action by the Department of Commerce.

Group #4

Facilitator: Liam Antrim

Note-taker: Mike Murray

- Seafloor mapping and habitat characterization need to be high priorities.
- Sanctuary should proactively address invasive species. For example, intertidal surveys should be conducted frequently enough to not let invasive species become established.
- Sanctuary should track and address stormwater runoff, upland erosion, and non-point source runoff pollutants because of their potential to have adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem.
- Point-source pollution (oil spills) should remain a priority. Continued vigilance (monitoring and compliance of the Area to be Avoided) is important. Pushing other regulatory agencies toward stronger prevention measures.
- Towed cargos (barge and tug traffic) and small boat traffic/use should be better characterized, tracked, and assessed for risks. Work with the Coast Guard to understand who is out there, and risks posed by different users.
- Develop and expand education and outreach through partnerships with universities and other institutions (e.g., Monterey Bay Aquarium).
- Increase public awareness of marine conservation issues.
- Would like to understand better the compatibility of wave energy projects (alternative energy projects generally) with the mission of the sanctuary. Clearly define criteria in advance of development within the sanctuary. Consider alternatives for commercial development within the sanctuary in environmental analysis.
- Study morbillivirus and toxoplasma in sea otters to determine its contagiousness.
- Tribal council and tribal community involvement and full partnership are important. The sanctuary should work with tribal communities to address and educate each other on progress, opportunities, and priorities.

- For ecosystem-based management, the sanctuary should determine compatibility of human activities with habitat types.
- Partnerships should be expanded and deepened (tribes, Pacific Fishery Management Council, state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, education institutions) to improve overall resource management of the sanctuary.
- Expand upon current physical and biological parameter monitoring using remote ocean sensing devices (buoys) to provide baseline data and early warnings (e.g., harmful algal blooms). Integrate current deployments into Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, and partner with them.
- Leverage internal and partner resources to improve educational outreach outside of the Olympic Peninsula. Host trainings (e.g., REEF). For example, the sanctuary could host trainings at Sand Point in Seattle.
- Conduct more outreach about the sanctuary in regional communities.
- Improve data acquisition, data management, and data sharing. Implement the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.
- Sanctuary management should analyze the spatial scale of ecosystems within and beyond the sanctuary. Do the sanctuary boundaries provide for (or get in the way of) ecosystem-based management? Consider other boundary configurations to fit ecosystem-based management.
- Increase knowledge on the presence, use and abundance in the sanctuary of threatened and endangered species. For example, study migratory pathways of hatchery and wild salmon.
- Sanctuary outreach materials (such as those used at the scoping meeting) should be made available to the general public in places where they visit (e.g., Seattle Aquarium, schools, etc.).
- Outreach needs to be active and interactive to get kids interested. Take advantage of modern technologies to reach younger audiences, and to help translate science into something that is interesting and publicly digestible.
- Investigate ways to use social media (facebook, myspace, etc.).
- Make sanctuary sound bites and downloadable videos available to the public.
- Interactive web programming (e.g., species identification game).
- Assessment and characterization of marine debris within the sanctuary should be a priority. Take steps to remove it if necessary.
- Develop personal relationships with partners such that they can be spokespersons for the sanctuary.
- Develop a widget for the sanctuary. Idea: vessel operation highlights.
- Evaluate existing monitoring programs, and determine effectiveness in detecting climate change effects within the sanctuary.
- Make proactive efforts to monitor for climate change effects in the sanctuary. Link to the National Park's efforts, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work (e.g., R. Feely) and others within a network. This could tie into the Ocean Observing Systems.
- Management plan should incorporate enforcement and surveillance needs.

- Monitoring should occur year-round (not just during good weather seasons), and should capture events that occur during the winter. For example, kelp monitoring in the winter is important in order to know what's coming for the spring.
- Check for parasitic algae on bull kelp, which is occurring in the central Sound.
- People are also interested in shipwrecks, cultural resources and history. Engage the public in these topics.
- NOAA should use all of its observation assets (e.g., satellites) to the benefit of the national marine sanctuaries. Make this part of the management plan.
- Prioritize the research of cultural history from the period when sea level was low to help in the understanding of long-term change (cultural and natural history components).
- Reconstruct the trends in ecosystem change and human use over time.
- Incorporate language into the management plan that allows flexibility to address emerging issues.
- Consider prioritizing research on ocean acidification and its potential effects on species within the sanctuary.